



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### Idaho Sheep Inventory Down 4 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in Idaho on January 1, 2006, totaled 260,000 head, down 4 percent from last year, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Breeding sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2006, totaled 220,000 head. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 178,000 head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2005. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006 totaled 40,000 head. The 2005 lamb crop of 220,000 head was down 20,000 head from 2004.

Idaho meat goat inventory on January 1, 2006 was 5,900 head compared to 5,400 head a year ago. Milk goats totaled 2,800 head, up 4 percent from the 2,700 head held on January 1, 2005.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from 2005. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.35 million head up 4 percent from 2005. All market goats and kids totaled 471,800 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2006 meat and all other goats totaled 2.26 million head, up 5 percent from 2005. Milk goat inventory increased 1 percent to 288,000 head while angora goats were down 1 percent totaling 278,000 head. The 2005 kid crop totaled 1.84 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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